

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 291029

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 17608 ACTIONNSECSTATE DEC 6

QUOTE: S E C R E T MOSCOW 17608

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, UR, XF

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE UNDER SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER GROMYKO

1. ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR TOON I SAW GROMYKO THIS MORNING AT
1045 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. PRINCIPALS
ON SOVIET SIDE WERE DEPUTY MINISTER KOVALEV AND NEAR EAST DEPT.
CHIEF SYTENKO. IN CONVERSATION, WHICH LASTED HOUR AND A HALF,
GROMYKO WAS IN GOOD FORM AND CONGENIAL ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY UNHAPPY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 291029

WITH TURN OF EVENTS IN MIDDLE EAST.

2. WE WENT OVER MUCH THE SAME GROUND COVERED YESTERDAY IN MY
MEETING WITH KOVALEV. GROMYKO BITTERLY COMPLAINED OF OUR ALLEGED
ROLE IN RECENT BEGIN-SADAT MOVES, ASSERTING THAT FEW PEOPLE BE-
LIEVED WE HAD NOT STIMULATED THEM AND IN ANY CASE THERE WAS NO
QUESTION THAT WE HAD APPROVED THEM WITH DEMONSTRATIVE ENTHUSIASM.

FONMIN FELT STRONGLY OUR BEHAVIOR IN RECENT WAS INCONSISTENT WITH JOINT STATEMENT AND HE CALLED UPON US TO TAKE CORRECTIVE STEPS IN ORDER TO RESUME COURSE TO GENEVA CONFERENCE. ALL SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT TRIPOLI WAS DIRECT RESULT OF SADAT MOVE AND NO ONE CAN BLAME TRIPOLI PARTICIPANTS FOR DECISIONS TAKEN THERE.

3. I REFUTED GROMYKO'S INNUENDOES THAT WE HAD BEEN CONSULTED IN ADVANCE OF JERUSALEM AND CAIRO MOVES BY PARTIES INVOLVED AND HAD STIMULATED THEM TO ACT. WE DID FEEL HOWEVER THAT THE FACT THAT PARTIES LONG AT ODDS WITH EACH OTHER ARE NOW IN DIRECT CONTACT WAS USEFUL DEVELOPMENT AND THIS PLUS CAIRO CONFERENCE MIGHT WELL PROVE TO BE HELPFUL STEPS ON ROAD TO GENEVA. IN WAS CRITICAL OF SOVIET NEGATIVISM REGARDING SADAT-BEGUN AND CAIRO MEETING.

FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM NOW IS TO ENSURE THAT EVENTS IN MIDDLE EAST ARE NOT DOMINATED BY REJECTIONISTS WHO BY THEIR OWN ADMISSION ARE ANTI-PEACE AND ANTI-GENEVA. SOVIETS, WITH THEIR CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON SYRIANS, COULD PLAY USEFUL ROLE IN AVODING FURTHER RADICALIZATION OF SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST.

4. GAVE GROMYKO OUR THOUGHTSON YOUR UPCOMING TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST ON AGREED LINES, STRESSING THAT WE CARRY NO NEW PROPOSALS WITH US AND TRIP WAS PRIMARILY FOR CONSULTATION. WE WOULD REPORT TO HIM EITHER THROUGH AMBASSADOR TOON OR AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN OUR FINDINGS SOONEST AFTER OUR RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 291029

5. FULL REPORT ON CONVERSATION FOLLOWS BUT I THOUGHT YOU WOULD WANT TO HAVE SOONEST THIS BRIEFEST OF SUMMARIS. TOON UNQUOTE VANCE

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